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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/762,985	01/21/2004	G. Paul Koning	EQLC-P01-006	5999
28120	7590	08/09/2007		
FISH & NEAVE IP GROUP ROPES & GRAY LLP ONE INTERNATIONAL PLACE BOSTON, MA 02110-2624			EXAMINER NANO, SARGON N	
			ART UNIT 2157	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 08/09/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/762,985

Applicant(s)

KONING ET AL.

Examiner

Sargon N. Nano

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 May 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 8, and 10 - 13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 8, and 10 - 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/27
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

Response to Amendment

1. This action is responsive to amendment filed on May 22, 2007. Claims 1 and 10 are amended. Claims 2 and 9 are canceled. Claims 1 – 8 and 10 – 13 are pending examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1 – 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by O'Neil et al. U. S. Patent No. 6,128,279 (referred to hereafter as O'Neil).

O'Neil teaches a system which distributes requests among a plurality of network servers (see abstract).

As to claim 1, O'Neil teaches a system for managing requests from a plurality of clients for access to a set of resources, comprising:

a plurality of storage servers having the set of resources partitioned thereon, each server having a load monitor process capable of communicating with other load monitor processes for generating a measure of system load and a client load on each

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of the plurality of servers (see col. 3 lines 17 - 47 O'Neil discloses a plurality of servers which directly handle load balancing), and

a client distribution process, responsive to the system load, and capable of repartitioning the set of client connections for distributing client load by moving at least one client connection from a first server of the plurality of servers to a second server of the plurality of servers (see col. 4 lines 1 – 9, O'Neil discloses that a server determines whether to process a request or reroute the request to a different server on a network).

As to claim 3, O'Neil teaches a system according to claim 1, further comprising a load distribution process for determining resource loads when moving clients among servers (see col.4 lines 1 – 21).

As to claim 4, O'Neil teaches a system according to claim 1, further comprising: a client allocation process for causing a client to communicate with a selected one of said plurality of servers (see col. 4 lines 22 –36).

As to claim 5, O'Neil teaches a system according to claim 1, further comprising: a client allocation process for distributing incoming client requests across said plurality of servers (see col. 4 lines 22 – 36).

As to claim 6, O'Neil teaches a system according to claim 2, wherein the client distribution process includes a round robin distribution process (see col.1 lines 42 – 54).

As to claim 7, O'Neil teaches a system according to claim 2, wherein the client distribution process includes a client redirection process (see col. 4 lines 1 - 9).

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As to claim 8, O'Neil teaches a system according to claim 2, wherein the client distribution process includes a disconnect process for dynamically disconnecting a client from a first server and reconnecting to a second server (see col. 4 lines 1 - 9).

As to claim 10, O'Neil teaches a system according to claim 1, further comprising: an adaptive client distribution process for distributing clients across the plurality of servers as a function of dynamic variations in measured system load (see col. 6 lines 11 - 49).

As to claim 11, O'Neil teaches a system according to claim 1, further comprising: a storage device for providing storage resources to the plurality of clients (see col. 6 lines 50 – col. 7 lines 20).

As to claim 12, O'Neil teaches a system according to claim 1, further comprising: a storage service process for providing at least one volume of storage partitioned across the plurality of servers (see col. 4 lines 1 – 21).

As to claim 13, O'Neil teaches a storage area network, comprising: a plurality of servers each configured as a server of claim 1 (see rejection of claim 1).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

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§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sargon N. Nano whose telephone number is (571) 272-4007. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 hour.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Sargon Nano
Feb. 1, 2007


ARLETTE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100